

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06837 221654Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03
/095 W

-----230611Z 072750 /22

R 221527Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4206
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY, SY
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON LIBYAN-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

1. ALTHOUGH INTENSITY OF ANTI-LIBYAN EGYPTIAN PRESS BARRAGE
ABATES SOMEWHAT APRIL 22, LOCAL DAILIES TO MANAGE TO GET IN
A FEW DIGS. ALL PAPERS REPORT STATEMENT BY FONMIN FAHMY THAT
PRES SADAT HAS ISSUED DIRECTIVE THAT "EGYPTIAN RESPONSIBILITY
TOWARD ARAB NATION" PARAMOUNT AND THEREFORE THERE WILL BE
NO RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY INTO EGYPT OR RESIDENCE IN EGYPT OF
ANY "BROTHERLY" LIBYAN, NO MATTER WHAT POLICY ADOPTED BY
COL QADHAFI. ARTICLES NOTE THAT SADAT'S POLICY CONTRASTS
SHARPLY WITH QADHAFI'S, SINCE LIBYA TURNED BACK EGYPTIAN
AIRCRAFT FROM TRIPOLI PREVIOUS DAY WITH 38 EGYPTIANS ON
BOARD. LIBYAN AIRLINES OFFICE IN CAIRO ALSO HAS ALLEGEDLY
RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO CARRY ANY EGYPTIANS TO LIBYA.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06837 221654Z

2. COMMENTS BY PRIMIN SALIM TO VISITING SAUDI UNIV DEL ALSO
RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE. SALIM NOTED THAT LIBYA'S HOSTILE
ACTIONS TOWARD EGYPT AND SUDAN CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM
DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY ZAIRE.

3. PURSUING ZAIRE THEME, DAILIES REPORT THAT (RIGHTISTS)

SOCIAL LIBERAL PARTY OF MUSTAFA KAMAL MURAD MET APRIL 21 AND CONDEMNED NOT ONLY QADHAFI'S INTERFERENCE IN ZAIRE, BUT ALSO ACTS OF SABOTAGE IN EGYPT AND EXECUTION OF LIBYAN OFFICERS APRIL 2 AND 7. ALL PAPERS ALSO NOTE, WITHOUT COMMENT, THAT LIBYA HAS DECLARED OIL EMBARGO ON ZAIRE.

4. MOST INTRIGUING ITEM, A BIT OF FRONT PAGE GOSSIP FROM AHRAM MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT, CONCERNS MOSCOW AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONY OF SYRIAN PRES ASAD, WHO DEPARTING FOR KIEV. ACCORDING TO AHRAM, BREZHNEV, WHO GLAD-HANDING ARAB DIPLOMATS, SUDDENLY ASKED IN LOUD VOICE WHERE LIBYAN AMB LOCATED. AFTER LIBYAN AMB RAISED HAND, BREZHNEV REPORTEDLY LOUDLY DECLARED "PLEASE CONVEY MY GREETINGS TO MU'AMMAR QADHAFI". AHRAM REPORT, ENTITLED "WITHOUT COMMENT", THEN PROCEEDS TO SPECULATE WHETHER BREZHNEV BEING FRIENDLY BECAUSE HE WORRIED ABOUT INTERNAL INSTABILITY IN LIBYA OR ABOUT TENSION ON EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN BORDER.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE NO LACK OF ANTI-LIBYAN BARBS IN APRIL 22 PRESS, LACK OF FRENZIED CRITICISM TYPICAL OF TIDE-LIKE SURGE AND RECESSION OF ANTI-QADHAFI DIATRIBES IN CAIRO DAILIES OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS. ATTACKS ON QADHAFI ALSO NOW BEGINNING TO TIE LIBYA IN WITH ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS.

6. IT ALSO OF INTEREST, IN REFERENCE TO AHRAM GOSSIP FROM MOSCOW, THAT CAIRO DAILIES HAVE CONSIDERABLY DOWNPLAYED ASAD TRIP TO USSR, REFRAINING FROM SPECULATION ON RESULTS AND CONFINING BRIEF, FACTUAL ARTICLES TO BOTTOM OF FRONT PAGES. EGYPTIAN PROBABLY WAITING TO SEE FINAL COMMUNIQUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 06837 221654Z

AND TO HEAR FROM SYRIANS EXACTLY WHAT TRANSPIRED BEFORE DEALING EDITORIALY WITH TRIP IN SUBSTANTIVE FASHION.
EILTS

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